

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2  
SECTION: 25.5  
TITLE: TRANSTRACHEAL OXYGEN

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AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(d)(3)(iv)

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### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

April 25, 1988

### II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

31730

### III. DESCRIPTION

An alternative method of delivery oxygen to patients requiring oxygen therapy for prolonged periods. This method of oxygen delivery involves the creation of a transtracheal cutaneous fistula and oxygen is delivered directly to the lungs via a transtracheal catheter.

### IV. POLICY

Transtracheal oxygen therapy is a covered benefit for patients with long-term oxygen requirements such as chronic obstructive lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, interstitial lung diseases and other causes of hypoxemia. Benefits include services and supplies related to the surgical creation of the transtracheal cutaneous fistula, the transtracheal catheters as well as oxygen equipment and supplies.

### V. EXCLUSION

Billing separately for patient education counseling services are components of good clinical practice and are integrated into the appropriate office visit at no additional charge.

**\*END OF POLICY\***